Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A multisystematic volume rendering image processing system comprising:

a plurality of image data ~~processing units~~server computers,

a plurality of image display units,

one or more common volume data storage [[unit]]units for storing volume data necessary for the image display units, and

a ~~computation~~ server manager for managing data copying via a network, wherein the image data server computers~~processing units~~ receive volume data necessary for formation of images requested by the image display units from the volume data storage unit via the network, process image data in accordance with image requests concerning angle and position issued from the image display units, and transmit image results to the image display units via the network;

the image display units each including an input section and an output section transmit the image requests entered through the input sections to the image data server computers~~processing units~~via the network, receive

the image results processed by the image data server computers~~processing units~~ and output the image results to the output sections;

the volume data storage unit transmits the necessary volume data to the image data server computers~~processing units~~ in accordance with requests issued from the image data server computers~~processing units~~; and

the ~~computation~~ server manager makes a decision to switch data processing for the plurality of image display units so that a part of the data processing performed by an operative one of the image data server computers~~processing units~~ will be replaced by data processing performed by another suspended one including a state of low load of the image data server computers~~processing units~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The multisystematic volume rendering image processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the ~~computation~~ server manager decides the switching, if the same volume data as the volume data handled by the operative image data server computer~~processing unit~~ are not present in the suspended image data server computer~~processing unit~~ as a destination of the decided switching, the ~~computation~~

server manager performs ~~controlling to transmit~~a control function wherein the volume data from the volume data storage unit is transmitted to the destination image data server computer~~processing unit~~ and ~~copy~~ additional information is copied from the operative image data server computer~~processing unit~~ to the destination image data server computer~~processing unit~~, and ~~makes~~ the destination image data server computer is made to~~processing unit~~ execute the data processing.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The multisystematic volume rendering image processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein when overload is imposed on computation of volume rendering which is being carried out by a first image data server computer~~processing unit~~, the ~~computation~~ server manager judges whether to make a part of the volume rendering be handed over to a second image data server computer~~processing unit~~ having idle computation resources or not; and

when a decision is made that the part of the volume rendering is handed over, the ~~computation~~ server manager performs ~~controlling to transmit~~a control function wherein volume data handled by the first image data server computer is transmitted~~processing unit~~ from the

volume data storage unit to the second image data server computer~~processing unit~~ and ~~copy~~ additional information is copied from the first image data server computer~~processing unit~~ to the second image data server computer~~processing unit~~, and ~~makes~~ the second image data server computer is made to~~processing unit~~ execute the data processing which is heretofore executed by the first image data server computer~~processing unit~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The multisystematic volume rendering image processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~computation~~ server manager stores identification names of the volume data transmitted from the volume data storage unit and destination image data server computers~~processing units~~ in a memory in advance;

when the volume data storage unit is requested to send volume data, the ~~computation~~ server manager inquires of the memory whether the same volume data are already sent or not, after the volume data is sent from the volume data storage unit;

when the same volume data are already sent, the ~~computation~~ server manager judges whether the volume data are collected to one of the image data server computers~~processing units~~ or not; and

when a decision is made that the volume data are collected to one of the image data server computersprocessing units, the computation server manager performs controlling to copya control function wherein additional information is copied from [[a]]an image data server computerprocessing unit to be suspended to another image data server computerprocessing unit as a destination of handover of the volume data and make the handover destination image data server computer is made toprocessing unit execute data processing which is heretofore executed by the image data server computerprocessing unit to be suspended.

Claim 5 (Canceled)